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October 14, 2009

Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Broadband Industry Practices (WC Docket No. 07-52)

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I have served as a Commissioner on the Georgia Public Service Commission for fourteen years and have a strong interest and significant experience in issues related to communications. During my tenure, the Georgia PSC and the Federal Communications Commission have worked collaboratively many times on complex communications issues that had a positive impact on Georgia and the nation.

The Commission's pending announcement on October 22nd, combined with your recent remarks, suggests that you are considering addressing so-called network neutrality regulation. In my view, the Commission is on the verge of making a mistake. Any such network neutrality regulation will, quite simply, make it more difficult for companies to invest in broadband networks, not to mention threaten jobs, at a time when our Georgia communities need all the investment they can get. According to FCC reports, Georgia is the most wired state for broadband. Cable companies, traditional telephone companies, CLECs and others companies have invested heavily in Georgia and compete vigorously for customers.

In addition to threatening the construction and maintenance jobs that come with development of new infrastructure, network neutrality regulation slows deployment of networks. In a state with a large number of rural consumers, it is troubling that the FCC would adopt policies that would keep many Georgians from receiving reliable high-speed service.

Over the past several years, the FCC has debated how -- or whether -- to regulate the host of new infrastructure technologies, data technologies and Web platforms that we now use every day. I believe rushing head-first into network neutrality regulation would be a huge mistake, hampering the innovation, entrepreneurship and competition that marks today's communications markets.

While I agree that a fair and open Internet is important, regulating broadband services will be counterproductive. It will effectively preclude access for many Georgia consumers and will also likely cost us jobs and investment. I urge you to reconsider. I thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stan Wise", written in a cursive style.

Stan Wise

Georgia Public Service Commissioner